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21-07-2000

- 19 -

## CLAIMS:

1. A method of dispersing a volatile insect repellant, insecticide, anti-microbial or anti-allergenic composition which method comprises:
  - 5 dispersing the insect repellant, insecticide, anti-microbial or anti-allergenic composition into an air stream; and generating an ion wind, thus causing the molecules of the insect repellant, insecticide, anti-microbial or anti-allergenic composition to become electrically charged.
- 15 2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insect repellant comprises eucalyptus oil, geranium oil, geraniol, pine oil, citronella, neem, thyme oil, thymol, camphor, N-N-dimethyl-*m*-toluamide, citronelol, citronelal, linalool, carene, myrcene, terpinene, limnolene, cymene, citronellyl formate, geranyl formate, rose oxide, 2-alkyl-N-acetyloxazolidine, -acetyl-2-alkyl-4,4-dimethyloxazolidine, dipropyl pyridine-2,5-dicarboxylate, sec-butyl-2-(2-hydroxyethyl)-1-piperidine carboxylate or methylnaphthalene.
- 20 25 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the insecticide comprises pyrethrum or a pyrethroid ester insecticide.
- 30 4. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the insect repellant, insecticide, anti-microbial or anti-allergenic composition is dispersed from a slow release formulation.
- 35 5. A method as claimed in claim 4 wherein the

- 20 -

slow release formulation comprises a gel, or a wick or pad fed from a liquid reservoir containing the insect repellent, insecticide, anti-microbial or anti-allergenic composition.

5 6. A method as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5 wherein the slow release formulation is adapted to release the composition into the air stream over a period of at least 8 hours.

10 7. A method of dispersing a volatile fragrance composition which method comprises: dispersing a volatile fragrance composition into an air stream; and generating an ion wind, thus causing the molecules of the volatile fragrance composition to become electrically charged.

15 8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the fragrance composition comprises one or more fragrance components selected from diethylphthalate, orange terpenes (limonene), styrallyl acetate ester, Cyclacet, methyl ionone ketone, vanillin, Litsea Cybeba, 2-phenylethan-1-ol, dipropylene glycol and methyl-p-3°-butyl hydrocinnamyl aldehyde.

20 9. A method as claimed in claim 7 or claim 8 wherein the volatile fragrance composition is dispersed from a slow release formulation.

25 10. A method as claimed in claim 9 wherein the slow release formulation comprises a gel, or a wick or pad fed from a liquid reservoir containing the composition.

30 35 11. An apparatus for dispersing a volatile

-07-2000

- 21 -

composition into the atmosphere, which apparatus comprises:

5 a housing of an electrically insulating material which is in communication with the atmosphere outside the housing, the housing containing:

(i) a source of a volatile composition; and  
(ii) means for generating an ion wind comprising a first electrode and a second electrode spaced therefrom to define a region there between such that when a dc electrical potential is applied across the first and second electrodes an electrical field is created in the said region, the ion wind facilitating the dispersal of the source of the volatile composition into the atmosphere and causing the molecules of the volatile composition to become charged,

10 15 20 25 the source of the volatile composition being disposed in the housing downstream of the first and second electrodes.

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 11 wherein the first electrode has at least one sharp edge or point.

30 35 13. An apparatus as claimed in claims 11 or claim 12 wherein the second electrode is a ring electrode, a tubular electrode, a grid electrode, or a combination of one or more thereof.

14. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein the second electrode is earthed.

21-07-2000

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- 22 -

15. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims  
11 to 14 wherein the source of the volatile  
composition is provided as a slow release formulation.

5 16. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims  
11 to 15 which is adapted to run from an electrical  
mains supply or light bulb socket.

10 17. An apparatus as claimed in any one of claims  
11 to 15 which is adapted to run from a battery or a  
motor vehicle lighter socket.

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